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.01 Purpose. The purpose of this Manual Supplement is to provide policy and guidance specific to the conservation of Special Status Plants and the habitats on which they depend. These are plant species which are officially listed, proposed for listing, or candidates for listing as threatened or endangered (T/E) by the Secretary of the Interior under the provisions of the Endangered Species Act (ESA); those listed or proposed for listing by the State of California as rare, threatened, or endangered; and those designated by the California State Director as sensitive. Conservation in this Manual Supplement and pursuant to the ESA means the use of all methods and procedures which are necessary to bring such species and their habitats to the point at which the provisions of the ESA are not necessary, or there are no longer any threats to the continued existence of the other categories of Special Status Plants.

.02 Objectives. The objectives are:

A. To conserve T/E plants and the ecosystems on which they depend.

B. To ensure that actions authorized on BLM administered lands do not contribute to the need to list any other Special Status Plants under the provisions of the ESA.

.03 Authority. (See BLM Manual)

.04 Responsibility. (See BLM Manual)

.05 Reference. (See BLM Manual)

.06 Policy. The policy of BLM-California is as follows:

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A. Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Plant Species. (See BLM Manual)

B. Plant Species Proposed for Federal Listing. (See BLM Manual)

C. Candidate Plant Species. The BLM will carry out management, consistent with the principles of multiple use, for the conservation of candidate plant species and their habitats and will ensure that actions authorized, funded, or carried out do not contribute to the need to list any of these species as T/E. Specifically, BLM-California will:

1. Determine the distribution, abundance, reasons for current status, and habitat needs for candidate plant species occurring on lands administered by the BLM and evaluate the significance of BLM lands or actions in maintaining those species.

2. For those plant species where BLM lands or actions have a significant effect on their status, manage the habitat to conserve the species by:

a. Including candidate plant species as priority species in land use plans (BLM MS 1622 - Supplemental Program Guidance for Renewable Resources).

b. Developing and implementing rangewide and/or site-specific management plans for candidate plant species that include specific habitat and population management objectives designed for recovery, as well as the management strategies necessary to meet those objectives.

c. Ensuring that BLM activities affecting the habitat of candidate plant species are carried out in a manner consistent with the objectives for managing those species.

d. Monitoring populations and habitats of candidate plant species to determine whether management objectives are being met.

3. Request technical assistance from the FWS, and any other qualified source, on any planned action that may contribute to the need to list a candidate plant species as T/E.

4. Prepare biological evaluations that assess the effects of proposed actions that may adversely affect candidate plant species.

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5. Take no action that adversely affects a candidate plant species without the approval of the State Director. Approval of such an action shall be contingent upon the State Director's judgement that the evidence in the biological evaluation is sufficient to ensure that the action will not result in the need to list the species in question as T/E.

D. Sensitive Plant Species. The California State Director may designate sensitive species. Sensitive plant species designated by the State Director will be given the same level of protection as candidate plants and all of the policy statements given for candidate species (.06C, above) apply equally to sensitive plant species. Unless specifically excluded by the State Director all plants on List 1B (Plants Rare, Threatened, or Endangered in California and Elsewhere) of the most recent edition of the California Native Plant Society's *Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants of California* that are on BLM lands or affected by BLM actions and that do not fall into one of the other categories of this section are designated as sensitive species in California.

E. State Listed Species. The BLM will carry out management for the conservation of plant species listed as rare, threatened, or endangered by the State of California. As a minimum, state listed plant species are to be given the same level of protection as candidate species and all of the policy statements given for candidate species (.06C, above) apply equally to state listed species. Refer to California Manual Supplement 6840.2 for further guidance on State listed plants and animals.